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Patent claims

1. An analytical test system which comprises a molecular switch which exhibits a probe and a catalytic component.
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2. The system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the probe is conjugated to the catalytic component either directly or by way of a coupling component.
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3. The system as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the catalytic activity of the molecular switch is changed by an analyte to be determined making contact with the probe.
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4. The system as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the change in the catalytic activity of the molecular switch is due to a conformational change in the probe which is elicited by the analyte.
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5. The system as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that a nucleic acid or a nucleic acid derivative is used as the probe or as a constituent thereof.
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6. The system as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that a ribonucleic acid, a deoxyribonucleic acid, a peptide nucleic acid or a locked nucleic acid is used as the probe or as a constituent thereof.
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7. The system as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the nucleic acid or the nucleic acid derivative which is used as the probe or as a probe constituent is present in
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hybridized form.

- 5 8. The system as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that an oligonucleotide is used as the probe or as a probe constituent.
- 10 9. The system as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that the oligonucleotide which is used as the probe or as probe constituent exhibits an intramolecular hybridization.
- 15 10. The system as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that an enzyme, an antibody, a catalytically active nucleic acid or a catalytically active nucleic acid derivative is used as the catalytic component or as a constituent thereof.
- 20 11. The system as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that a catalytically active ribonucleic acid, deoxyribonucleic acid, peptide nucleic acid or locked nucleic acid is used as the catalytic component or as a constituent thereof.
- 25 12. The system as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that an enzyme is used as the catalytic component or as a constituent thereof.
- 30 13. A method for determining an analyte in a sample, wherein an analytical test system or a molecular switch as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 12 is used.
- 35 14. The use of a molecular switch as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 12 for determining an analyte

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in a sample.

5 15. The use of an analytical test system as claimed in
one or more of claims 1 to 12 for determining an
analyte in a sample.

10 16. The use as claimed in claim 14 or 15,
characterized in that the analyte is a nucleic
acid or a nucleic acid derivative.

17. A molecular switch as claimed in one or more of
claims 1 to 12.